

We claim:

1. An oscillator with improved sensitivity to component variation due to process shift, comprising:
 - 5 a first comparator circuit and a second comparator circuit;
 - a charging-discharging circuit coupled to a first input of the first comparator circuit and to a first input of the second comparator circuit;
 - a resistor string coupled to a second input of the first comparator circuit and to a second input of the second comparator circuit;
- 10 a latch configured to combine an output of the first comparator circuit and an output of the second comparator circuit;
 - wherein the resistor string is operable to maintain a first reference voltage at the second input of the first comparator circuit and a second reference voltage at the second input of the second comparator circuit;
- 15 wherein the first reference voltage is substantially higher than the second reference voltage;
 - wherein an output of the latch is coupled to the charging-discharging circuit, forming a feedback loop;
 - wherein the output of the first comparator circuit is operable to change states
- 20 when the first input of the first comparator circuit reaches a voltage level substantially commensurate with the first reference voltage;
 - wherein the output of the second comparator circuit is operable to change states when the first input of the second comparator circuit reaches a voltage level substantially commensurate with the second reference voltage;
- 25 wherein the charging-discharging circuit is operable to charge the first input of the first comparator circuit and the first input of the second comparator circuit to a voltage level substantially commensurate with the first reference voltage;
 - wherein the charging-discharging circuit is operable to discharge the first input of the first comparator circuit and the first input of the second comparator circuit to a voltage level substantially commensurate with the second reference voltage; and
- 30 wherein the resistor string comprises at least two different structure types.

2. The oscillator of claim 1, wherein the charging-discharging circuit comprises:
a resistance; and
a capacitance coupled to the resistance;
5 wherein the resistance and the capacitance are configured together to substantially determine a time period of oscillation of the oscillator.

3. The oscillator of claim 2, wherein the resistance comprises at least two different structure types.

10 4. The oscillator of claim 3, wherein a first of the at least two different structure types comprises poly-silicon, and a second of the at least two different structure types comprises n+ diffusion.

15 5. The oscillator of claim 2;
wherein the first input of the first comparator circuit and the first input of the second comparator circuit are both coupled to a first terminal of the capacitance; and
wherein a second terminal of the capacitance is coupled to a common ground.

20 6. The oscillator of claim 1, wherein the resistor string comprises a first resistance, a second resistance, and a third resistance;

wherein the first resistance couples a power supply to the second input of the first comparator circuit;

25 wherein the second resistance couples the second input of the first comparator circuit to the second input of the second comparator circuit;

wherein the third resistance couples the second input of the second comparator circuit to a common ground; and

30 wherein the first resistance comprises a first structure type, the second resistance comprises a second structure type different from the first structure type, and the third resistance comprises the first structure type and the second structure type.

7. The oscillator of claim 6;

wherein a nominal value of the first resistance, a nominal value of the second resistance and a nominal value of the third resistance are substantially equivalent to each other.

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8. The oscillator of claim 1, wherein the latch comprises an SR-latch.

9. The oscillator of claim 1, wherein a first of the at least two different structure types comprises poly-silicon, and a second of the at least two different structure types

10 comprises n+ diffusion.

10. An oscillator with improved sensitivity to component variation due to process shift, comprising:

a first comparator circuit and a second comparator circuit;

15 a resistor string coupled to a second input of the first comparator circuit and to a second input of the second comparator circuit;

a latch configured to combine an output of the first comparator circuit and an output of the second comparator circuit;

20 a resistance coupling an output of the latch to a first input of the first comparator circuit and to a first input of the second comparator circuit;

a capacitance coupling a common ground to the first input of the first comparator circuit and to the first input of the second comparator circuit;

25 wherein the resistor string is operable to maintain a first reference voltage at the second input of the first comparator circuit and a second reference voltage at the second input of the second comparator circuit;

wherein the first reference voltage is substantially higher than the second reference voltage;

30 wherein the output of the first comparator circuit is operable to change states when the first input of the first comparator circuit reaches a voltage level substantially commensurate with the first reference voltage;

wherein the output of the second comparator circuit is operable to change states when the first input of the second comparator circuit reaches a voltage level substantially commensurate with the second reference voltage; and

wherein the resistance comprises at least two different structure types.

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11. The oscillator of claim 10, wherein the resistor string comprises a first resistance, a second resistance, and a third resistance;

wherein the first resistance couples a power supply to the second input of the first comparator circuit;

10 wherein the second resistance couples the second input of the first comparator circuit to the second input of the second comparator circuit; and

wherein the third resistance couples the second input of the second comparator circuit to a common ground.

15 12. The oscillator of claim 11, wherein the first resistance comprises a first structure type, the second resistance comprises a second structure type different from the first structure type, and the third resistance comprises the first structure type and the second structure type.

20 13. The oscillator of claim 11;

wherein a nominal value of the first resistance, a nominal value of the second resistance and a nominal value of the third resistance are substantially equivalent to each other.

25 14. The oscillator of claim 10, wherein the latch comprises an SR-latch.

15. The oscillator of claim 10, wherein a first of the at least two different structure types comprises poly-silicon, and a second of the at least two different structure types comprises n+ diffusion.

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16. A method for implementing an integrated oscillator with improved sensitivity to component variation due to process shift, the method comprising:

forming a first resistance of a first structure type;

forming a second resistance of a second structure type, wherein the second

5 structure type is different from the first structure type;

forming a third resistance, wherein the third resistance comprises a first resistor of the first structure type and a second resistor of the second structure type;

coupling a supply voltage to a first input of a first comparator circuit through the first resistance;

10 coupling the first input of the first comparator circuit to a first input of a second comparator circuit through the second resistance;

coupling the first input of the second comparator circuit to a common ground through the third resistance;

15 coupling an output of the first comparator circuit and an output of the second comparator circuit to a latch;

coupling an output of the latch to a second input of the first comparator circuit and to a second input of the second comparator circuit through a charge-discharge circuit; and

providing the output of the latch as output of the integrated oscillator.

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17. The method of claim 16, wherein the latch comprises an SR-latch.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said coupling the output of the latch comprises:

coupling the output of the latch to a first terminal of a fourth resistance;

25 coupling a first terminal of a capacitance to a second terminal of the fourth resistance, to the second input of the first comparator circuit, and to the second input of the second comparator circuit; and

coupling a second terminal of the capacitance to the common ground.

30 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the first structure type comprises poly-silicon, and the second structure type comprises n+ diffusion.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein a nominal value of the first resistance, a nominal value of the second resistance and a nominal value of the third resistance are substantially equivalent to each other.